

PROPERTY PLANNING COMMON ELEMENTS

COMPONENTS OF MASTER PLANS

RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

Hiking, Walking, or Running on Trails

Desired Experiences and Site Selection Considerations

These related activities are a form of both recreation and exercise. Experiences can range from short periods of time to multiple days (backpacking), sometimes to reach a destination, sometimes for the pleasure of being outside. The terms “hiking” and “walking” are often used interchangeably; however, hiking generally refers to longer trips that cover rougher terrain. Walking is a leisure activity for some participants while for others the physical exercise and or endurance aspects are more important. For recreationists pursuing many other activities, walking/hiking is involved to some extent.

Hiking and walking on trails are activities with low barriers to participation as they do not require special equipment. Trail running requires minimal equipment; backpacking requires a significant amount of equipment. Backpacking also requires significant continuous mileage of trails and amenities such as water and camp sites.

The identified need for additional facilities to support hiking, walking and running on trails is highest in the northwest, south central, and southeast counties. Enhancements to facilities for these activities will benefit other recreational activities.

Notable Differences in Participation or Opportunities Across the State

Walking is a popular activity statewide; however, the need for developed locations to pursue these activities differs. Participation is highest in south central and southeast counties of the state.

Notable Times of the Year of High or Low Participation

Participation is highest in spring, summer, and fall and lowest in winter. Distance travelled may be impacted by weather (e.g. fewer miles travelled in winter).

Participation

Participation Rate and Frequency

Based on a 2016 survey of Wisconsin residents conducted for the development of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), it is estimated that 68% hike, walk, or run on trails. This ranked #5 out of 64 activities evaluated.

In terms of frequency, participants that engaged in hiking, walking, or running on trails were the 6th most frequent participants of any activity (out of 64 activities evaluated).

Days/year	% of Hikers, Walkers, or Runners on Trails
1 to 2	24
3 to 9	33
10 to 29	24
30 or more	19
Total	100%



Demographics

As can be seen from the SCORP survey results in the table below, participants tend to be represented across the age spectrum, and are somewhat more urban.

Demographic Category	Demographic Group	% Participation Rate Within Demographic Category	% Composition of Demographic Category (sums to 100%)
Age	18-29	80	25
	30-39	81	22
	40-49	77	17
	50-59	66	18
	60-69	52	13
	70 and older	38	6
	Total	--	100
Gender	Female	67	50
	Male	69	50
	Total	--	100
Residence	Rural	65	47
	Urban	70	53
	Total	--	100